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Lyme Disease

Lyme disease is the most common tick-borne disease in the Northern Hemisphere. The bacteria are transmitted to animals and humans by the bite of infected hard ticks.

Early manifestations of infection may include fever, headache, fatigue, and a characteristic skin rash called erythema migrans. Left untreated, late manifestations involving the joints, heart, and nervous system can occur. In a majority of cases, symptoms can be eliminated with antibiotics, especially if diagnosis and treatment begins early in the course of illness. Late, delayed, or inadequate treatment can lead to “late stage” or “chronic” Lyme disease that can be disabling and difficult to treat.

Numerous tick-prevention medications are available both over the counter and from your veterinarian. Lyne Animal Hospitals recommends vaccinating dogs against Lyme disease. The test that screens for Lyme disease, canine ehrlichiosis and canine anaplasmosis also screens for heartworm, a disease transmitted by mosquitoes. Regular screening is not only important for disease identification, it's necessary so that a treatment program can begin as quickly as possible.